



Title III Language and Literacy Services and WIDA Testing for American Indian/Alaska Native Students

Dear Community Members and Family of American Indian/Alaska Native Students,

The Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction would like to share information about the availability of Title III supplemental language and literacy services for American Indian/Alaska Native students, what those services are, and how your child may qualify for this support.

What is Title III?

Title III is the section of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) which relates primarily to language and literacy development. This federal act defines American Indian/Alaska Native students as members of a community who can qualify for language and literacy support. The federal definition is here: [ESSA Title VIII, Sec. 8101\(20\)](#).

What are Title III American Indian/Alaska Native student services?

Title III American Indian/Alaska Native student services provide your child with free, additional, professional language and literacy assistance. The goal is to support your child in achieving academic success to prepare for college and employment.

Services focus on your child's individual language and literacy needs. Each student's language proficiency level, grade level, and educational background are considered to determine which Title III program services are appropriate. Examples of services include:

- Supplemental instruction of the [Since Time Immemorial curriculum](#) or tribally developed history lessons with a language and literacy focus.
- Family nights about the *Since Time Immemorial* and tribally developed curriculum as a resource to build language and literacy with your children.
- Literacy activities in preparation for the canoe journey or other tribally specific gatherings.

Who can qualify for Title III American Indian/Alaska Native student services?

Your child can qualify for support by being American Indian/Alaska Native, academically at-risk, and by scoring below the Proficient level on the WIDA Screener. Districts and State-Tribal Education Compact schools determine what makes a student academically at-risk. Nearly all use the annual Smarter Balanced academic assessments to determine if a student is academically at-risk. Documented tribal affiliation or enrollment is not a requirement for Title III eligibility.

Where are Title III American Indian/Alaska Native student services available?

If your child qualifies for Title III services, then your child's school must provide the services to your child, even if the school does not currently have a program.

How long will my child qualify for Title III American Indian/Alaska Native student services?

Your child will exit the Title III supplemental language and literacy services when they reach the Proficient level on the annual WIDA assessment. You may waive Title III American Indian/Alaska Native student services at any time that you wish, but your child will still be required to take the annual WIDA assessment.

What is WIDA?



WIDA is a 41-state consortium that promotes educational equity for multilingual learners through language development standards, assessments, and high-quality professional learning for P-12 educators.

What are the WIDA Screener and annual assessment?

The WIDA Screener and annual assessment, called ACCESS, are tests used to determine whether your child is eligible for language and literacy support through Title III. The tests are also an instructional tool for teachers to determine what supports your child needs most.

The screener is given once to determine whether your child is eligible for Title III American Indian/Alaska Native student services. With your permission, the district will test your child using the WIDA Screener on (insert date or date range). Students who score at the 1 to 4.5 overall level (or 1 to 4 level for K-1) qualify for services to build stronger language and literacy skills.

The annual ACCESS assessment is given in the spring of each year, until your child achieves the Proficient level and exits the services. The Proficient level is an overall score at the 5.0 level or above (or 4.5 level or above for K-1). The test helps teachers determine what language and literacy instruction will support your child best. Perhaps most importantly, the test can give you an idea of what skills you can practice with your child at home to improve your child's language and literacy skills.

What the WIDA Screener and annual assessment are not:

The WIDA Screener and annual ACCESS assessment are not used as a high school graduation requirement or for withholding a child's promotion from one grade to the next. The tests are also not to be used as the single measurement for the referral for Special Education services.

Contact Your School Staff for Information:

If you have questions about testing or Title III American Indian/Alaska Native student services or would like to opt out of the administration of the WIDA Screener for your child, please contact:

Title III Coordinator: _____

Phone: _____

Title VI Coordinator: _____

Phone: _____